THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—OTHELLO.

No. 2195 *Tuesday, Dec.* 23, 1828. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing!"—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

Covent Garden Theatre.

THE Tragedy of *Virginius* was excellently acted here last evening by Mr. Kean, Mr. C. Kemble, Mr. Warde, and Miss Jarman. The Ballet of *Offerings to Venus*, and *Charles the Second*, followed.—The house was fully and fashionably attended.

Drury Lane Theatre.

SOME slight sensation broke upon the present dulness of the theatrical world last night, by the announcement of Mr. Kean, jun. in *Romeo*. The lamentable failure of Mr. Cooper in attempting to pourtray the ardent passion of the "gentle" *Romeo*, induced the town to hope that a more youthful representative might bring to the character some of that *abandon* (we can find no word so expressive as the French one,) which seems so essential to our conception of this most passionate of the children of the sunny south.

Those unfortunate persons who went to the Theatre with this hope must have been woefully disappointed.—Mr. Kean's *Romeo*, is as cold and passionless as can well be imagined; he totally fails in assuming the tone or appearance of tenderness, and excepting his death-scene, which was really finely played, there was scarcely a point in his entire performance, beyond the trickery of copying the celebrated gestures and changes of voice which are natural in his father; but which in him are so evidently learnt by rote, without being felt, that they become offensive. We certainly expected to have seen Mr. Kean improved by his country practice, but this is not the case; he was perfect before in his attitudes and pantomime; he is only this now, generally speaking; though from his manner of playing the tomb-scene, it is evident he can do more if he would abandon those mannerisms that cannot be tolerated in a copy. Mr. Kean was generally well received, though some occasional hisses must have made "harsh discords and unpleasing sharps" to his ear. We have before spoken of Miss Phillips's performance of *Juliet*;—it is highly finished, but yet would be improved by a more plentiful infusion of this same *abandon*, we have before spoken of.

The Tragedy is, on the whole, cast in a very inferior manner at this Theatre to Covent Garden. Mrs. C. Jones, who is a clever woman generally, should not play tricks in the *Nurse*;—we wonder she had not the fear of Mrs. Davenport before her eyes. At the conclusion of the Tragedy, a few coatless and noisy vagabonds in the gallery, called for Kean, and did not cease their senseless uproar until he made his appearance, though, we must confess, he waited with a becoming modesty until the afterpiece of *Charles the Twelfth* had commenced;—he came on in plain clothes, bowed, and retired.—The house was full.

SURREY.—This evening, *The Benevolent Jew; Shewa*, Mr. Elliston; and other Entertainments.

Green-room report asserts most confidently that Miss Love is married to Mr. Granby Calcraft, the second son of the pay-master.

Among the company who went to witness the representation of Terence's *Adelphi* at Westminster School, was the celebrated Sir William Curtis, who was observed to derive less seeming satisfaction, and to pay less attention to the play than any other person present. When the entertainment was over a friend asked him what he thought of the performance; "Performance," said he, "do you call that gibberish performance. It was all a d—d humbug, Sir, I was invited to go to the Adelphi, and I expected to have seen both Mathews and Yates; but hang me Sir, if either was present."

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention, that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends, and the fashionable world, at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.

Monday—I shall be found seated at the *Diorama*, in the Regent's Park, anxiously admiring the two new Views, the charming Village of Unterseen, and the Cloisters of St. Wandrille—quite bewitching! About two, I pop in to see Mr. Burford's View of Sydney, in New South Wales, and the City and Bay of Genoa, in Leicester Square. On my return, I view his Exhibition of *The Battle of Navarino*, Strand—awfully grand.

On Tuesday, I wander through the various Departments of that popular and attractive Lounge, the Royal Bazaar, 73, Oxford Street, and view The British Diorama, The Descent from the Cross, and the French Child, with the singular inscription of '*Napoleon, Empereur*,' in its eyes.

Wednesday, I step into *The Cosmorama*, Regent Street—every day crowded—charming illusion—the effect of sunshine and shade astonishing—wander thro' Rome, Switzerland, Valley of Lauterbroun, and take a peep at the Grand Sultana, and the Seraglio, at Constantinople. In the afternoon, I qualify Mrs. P.'s discordant notes with some harmony divine, and may be found between 1 and 4 o'clock, at *The Apollonicon*, in St. Martin's Lane.

On Thursday, I step into Mr. J. J. Vulletton's, French Bazaar, 4, Old Cavendish Street, to see his *New Invented Gold*, which is Manufactured into every Fashionable Article—surpasses every thing that has been invented in this Country for Elegance and Durability—always remember Mrs. Pry in my purchases—charming woman! In the evening, I drop into Covent Garden Theatre—Morton's *Sublime and Beautiful* attracts great houses—Miss Hughes's singing delightful—shall certainly pay my friend, Alexander Lee, a visit at 80, Quadrant, and buy 'The Hunter's Signal Horn,' and 'The Lover's Chains.'

On Friday, I shall look in on Mr. Finn, in Regent Street, at his *Fancy Glass-working Exhibition*—an ingenious pretty Workshop. Afterwards, I drop in to examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle-Work, in Leicester Square.

On Saturday, after dinner, Mrs. Pry amuses me with neighbouring tattle, while we sip charming Port or Sherry, had from the cheap London and Westminster Wine and Spirit Company, Strand.

Not to be out of fashion, I drop in at THE CIGAR DIVAN, *King Street, Covent Garden*;—with first-rate Cigars, excellent Coffee, the Magazines, Newspapers, &c. (for, as Mingle says, "there are lots!") I whirl away an hour—get my box filled with prime snuff, and then for the Theatres—but I intrude, beg pardon.

Your's, PAUL PRY.

P. S. Called in at Wybrow's Music Warehouse—saw Sidney Waller—gave me a copy of "*Love from the Heart*,"—annexed a full-length portrait of the charming Miss Love, as *Don Giovanni*, by Gauci—excellent likeness—asked him to sing Love's last new song,—"The Lightest Bark"—beautiful melody—great hit.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, (3rd time) a new Drama, in five acts, called

WOMAN's LOVE;

Or, the Triumph of Patience.

Andrea, Duke of Saluzzo.....Mr C. KEMBLE,
Peganus, Prince of Bologna, Mr DIDDEAR,
Valerio, his Son, Mr RAYMOND,
Manso....Father to Bianca.....Mr BARTLEY,
Aurelio, his Son, Mr WARDE,
Bisaccio, Friend to Aurelio, Mr HORREBOW,
Lucio, Mr GREEN,
Gualtier, Mr EGERTON, Petronio, Mr BAKER,
Steward to Peganus, Mr BLANCHARD,
Ferdinand, Mr IRWIN, Messenger, Mr HOLL.
Bianca, Wife to Andrea, Miss JARMAN,
Rosamond.....her Daughter.....Miss J. SCOTT,
Livia, Wife to Peganus, Mrs VINING,
Principal Peasant, (*with a Song*) Miss H. CAWSE.

After which, (9th time) the Divertissement of

Offerings to Venus.

Principal Dancers.

Mr D'ALBERT, (from the King's Theatre)
Mesdames BEDFORD, VEDY, ROUNTREE, RYALS, GRIFFITHS, THOMASIN, EGAN, SHOTTER, KENDALL, F. MARSHALL.

After which, (8th time) a new Musical Entertainment, (founded on THE SULTAN) called The

Sublime & Beautiful.

The Music by Mr A. LEE.

The Sultan.....Mr WOOD,
Mustapha, Mr KEELEY,
Mirza, Mr HENRY, Merchant, Mr FULLER,
Captain Radnor, Mr DURUSET,
Sailor, Mr Fuller, Slaves, Mess. Heath & Matthews.
Florestine, Miss HUGHES,
Elizabeth..... Madame VESTRIS,

On Friday, Jane Shore, with (first time) Harlequin and Little Red Riding Hood; or, the Wizard and the Wolf.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Comedy of

UPS AND DOWNS.

Mr Mammonton, Mr COOPER,
Earl Delamere, Mr LEE, Jack Pointer, Mr JONES,
Christopher Higgins, Mr WEBSTER,
Mr Felix Mudberry ..... Mr LISTON.
Countess Delamere, Mrs DAVISON,
Lany Charlewood, Miss CURTIS, Kitty, Miss LOVE,
Mrs Corderoy, Mrs C. JONES,
Amelia Mammonton..... Miss E. TREE.

To which will be added, (9th time) a new Historical Drama, called

Charles the XIIth ;

Or, the Siege of Stralsund.

Charles the Twelfth.....Mr W. FARREN,
Gustavus de Mervelt, Mr J. VINING,
Gen. Duckert, Mr FENTON, Col. Reichel, Mr LEE,
Adam Brock, Mr LISTON,
Major Vanberg, (as Firmann).....Mr COOPER,
Triptolemus Muddlewerk, Mr HARLEY,
Clerk, Mr HONNER, Sentinel, Mr CATHIE.
Ulrica, (Daughter of Major Vanberg) Miss E. TREE,
Eudiga, (Daughter of Adam Brock) Miss LOVE.
Who will sing '*Rise gentle Moon,*' composed by John Barnett.

After which, (14th time,) a petite Comedy, entitled

The Youthful Queen.

Count de Oxenteirn..... Mr W. FARREN,
Steinberg, Mr JONES,
Frederick Bury..... Mr COOPER.
Christine, Miss E. TREE, Emma, Miss CURTIS.

On Friday, Lovers' Vows, with (first time) The Queen Bee, or, Harlequin and the Fairy Hive.

Printed and Published by E. Thomas, Denmark Court, Exeter-change, Strand.
All Communications must be post paid.—Printing in General.
☞ The Observer is delivered daily at the Residences of Subscribers at 2s. *per Month.*